Remarks

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Claims 1-13 and 16 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicants assert that all claims are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

Interview Summary

The undersigned participated in a telephone interview with the Examiner on April 22, 2005. During the interview, the differences between the Achacoso reference and subject matter of the present application were discussed. In particular it was pointed out that the present application provides for the bulletin board message to be pushed automatically from the application server down to the client server behind the client gateway, that all bulletin board messages pushed to the client gateway are automatically opened and displayed in a client GUI irrespective of the actual recipient indicated in the bulletin board header, and the application server does a lookup operation which maps the incoming e-mail recipient address to a bulletin board message address. The Examiner requested that such clarifying arguments be submitted in writing.

Objections to the Claims

The Office Action objected to claims 10-12 due to a typographical error. Claims 10-12 have been amended to read "wherein bulletin board display on the communications center", as suggested.

102 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 7-17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Achacoso (US Patent 6,161,149). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The Office Action rejects independent claims 1, 13 and 16 by stating that Achacoso teaches a method and a system that includes all of their elements. The Office Action equates the Centrifugal Communication and Collaboration Method (CCCM) in Achacoso (Col. 2, l. 10-17) that sends information to and from a central core and members are notified when information is posted to at the central core (Col. 5, l. 47-55)

to the bulletin board messaging system, method and computer medium recited in claims 1, 13 and 16. However, as discussed below, there are several distinguishing aspects in relation to a bulletin board system that must be acknowledged.

<u>Claim 1</u>

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite an application server configured to update a bulletin board display graphical user interface of a client computer that includes messages to different recipients by receiving and processing remote message manipulation instructions from one or more remote users, said instructions comprising a sender address, a recipient address pointing to the applications server and a content for each message to be generated;

wherein said application server looks up the recipient address of each message in a customer database to find an address of a client gateway associated with the sender or recipient address where the client computer providing the bulletin board display graphical user interface resides behind the client gateway, and wherein said application server updates the bulletin board display graphical user interface of the client computer by generating messages based on the remote message manipulation instructions and sending the messages to the client gateway in communication with said communications center such that the client computer automatically and concurrently displays the content of a plurality of the generated messages in the bulletin board display graphical user interface. These recitations are contrary to Achacoso.

It should be noted that Achacoso discloses utilizing a centrifugal push of information from the central source of data (Col. 2, l. 10-17) to a variety of dispersed users. Achacoso teaches using a notice generator to send a notice and an access channel out to a designated user by which the receiving member may receive the information only if the receiving member responds to the notice. (Col. 3, l. 55-65). Achacoso is specific in that it minimizes information transmitted to the peripheral devices by a) pushing a notice to a member only if the member is one to whom the associated information input was directed and b) transmitting information to the member only if he responds to the notice. (Col. 4., l. 40-45). Thus Achacoso is not concerned with an application server receiving a conventional e-mail, translating the e-mail address to a corresponding bulletin

board address and pushing those messages to a client server behind a gateway to be automatically opened and displayed on a GUI display without any positive request or response from any particular member. Furthermore, nothing in Achacoso teaches the display of different messages to different recipients within the same bulletin board of a client gateway concurrently. Achacoso discloses the use of conventional e-mail to notify individuals that information is awaiting their review.

Accordingly, independent claim1 includes recitations not disclosed by Achacoso and are allowable over Achacoso for at least these reasons. Dependent claims 2-3 and 7-12 depend from allowable claim 1 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 13

Independent claim 13 has been amended to more clearly recite, in part, creating a customer database in communication with an application server on the application server side of a customer gateway containing at least an e-mail address of a recipient and a bulletin board address of the same recipient, receiving a remote message manipulation instruction by the application server from a remote user, said instruction comprising a sender address, the recipient e-mail address and a content, looking up the recipient e-mail address in the customer database, mapping a recipient's e-mail address to the recipient's bulletin board address, pushing automatically the remote message manipulation instruction to the customer's gateway based on the recipient's bulletin board address, causing the shared always-on bulletin board system to display a message header and content according to the sender address, the recipient address and the content by sending an instruction to a client gateway in communication with said bulletin board system, and wherein the bulletin board system concurrently displays additional message headers and contents including messages to different recipients. These recitations of claim 13 are contrary to Achacoso.

It should be noted that Achacoso discloses using e-mail to push a notice to a member with a Web hyperlink to the information allowing the member to then access the information if they so choose. (Col. 1, l. 60-65; Col. 5,l. 60-65; Col. 6, l. 23-28, Col. 6, l. 65-67, Col 7, l. 1-10). Achacoso is not concerned with a method of translating an e-mail address in to a bulletin board address and pushing all messages intended for the same

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bulletin board address to a shared, always-on bulletin board GUI display. Furthermore, nothing in Achacoso teaches the automatic opening and public display of messages to different recipients within the same bulletin board of a client gateway.

Accordingly, claim 13 includes recitations not disclosed by Achacoso and is allowable over Achacoso for at least these reasons. Dependent claims 14 and 15 depend from allowable claim 13 and are also allowable over Achacoso for at least the same reasons.

Claim 16

Independent claim 16 has been amended to more clearly recite, in part, displaying a user interface having an area concurrently displaying multiple messages with each message being from at least one sender to one or more different recipients, with each message having one or more user options to manipulate the message, wherein a plurality of the messages are displayed with an identity of a sender of the message, the content of the message and an identity of an addressee of the message, and wherein at least a first message of the multiple messages is from a first sender and to a first addressee while at least a second message of the multiple messages is from a second sender and to a second addressee.

Achacoso teaches (Col. 6, l. 56-67, Col. 7, l. 1-32) person 1 pushing and posting notices of activity with hyperlink to the separate recipient computers of persons 2 and 3 and storing the subject information of the notice on a central location. Persons 2 and 3, individually, retrieve the information from the central location by clicking on the hyperlink notice. Achacoso does not teach persons 2 and 3 viewing the same notice on the same GUI addressed to both of them or viewing two separate messages on the same GUI addressed to them separately. Achacoso's disclosure is contrary to the recitations of claim 16.

In addition to those reasons noted above in relation to claims 1 and 13, these recitations of claim 16 are also contrary to Achacoso and are allowable over Achacoso for at least these reasons. Dependent claims 17-18 and 20 depend from allowable claim 16 and are also allowable over Achacoso for at least the same reasons.

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103 rejections

Claims 4-6 and 20 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso in view of Madsen (US Patent 6,151,620). Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso as being obvious to one skilled in the art. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As noted above for the §102 rejections, the claims in addition to independent claims 1, 13 and 16 that have been rejected under 35 USC §103 depend from either allowable base claim 1, 13 or 16 and are also allowable over the cited references for at least the same reason.
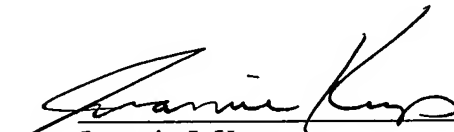
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1-20 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 9, 2005

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